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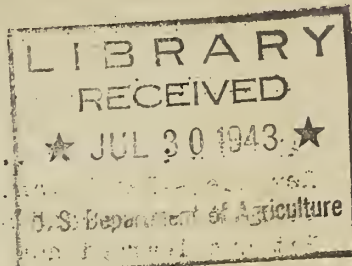
July 26, 1943

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WOMEN IN THE BEAN FIELDS

Broadcast by Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Chief of Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, July 26, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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ANNCR: In Washington, here are:

VAN DEMAN: Ruth Van Deman, and .....

KADDERLY: Wallace Kadderly.

VAN DEMAN: Ready to tell you about those women and girls who've "been workin" in the bean fields.

KADDERLY: And I can practically "hear the bones a-creakin'", " just like in the song.

VAN DEMAN: But in a very good cause. The women I want to tell our Farm and Home listeners about are those who live at Camp Mil-Bur. That's M-I-L hyphen B-U-R. By the way, that was the Camp Mil-Bur theme song we just heard.

KADDERLY: Camp Mil-Bur. I've heard of it. The women who live there and work in the fields nearby have been recruited by the Maryland Extension Service.

VAN DEMAN: Yes....some from Washington, some from Baltimore, others from other nearby cities and towns. No doubt if you went down there, you'd see some of your neighbors -- or girls you've seen in the Government offices. I wish you could go down and see Camp Mil-Bur.

KADDERLY: I'd like to. But after all, I don't have much gas. Maybe you'd better just tell me what I'd see.

VAN DEMAN: All right. I won't try to describe what you'd see today. I'm not quite that well up to date. But a few days ago, if you had looked from a bus window going south from Baltimore through Annapolis, you would have seen mile after mile of beans, beans, beans. And stopping along the way, you'd have seen about 85 women working in one field.

KADDERLY: A crew from Camp Mil-Bur, eh?

VAN DEMAN: Uh-huh. Some brown as berries. They've been working since the camp opened on June 20th. Others pale-faced -- fresh from the office.

KADDERLY: Spending a week or two of vacation.

VAN DEMAN: And using that vacation time to do something really worthwhile for their country.

KADDERLY: Some of the workers, I suppose, are members of the Women's Land Army?

(over)

VAN DEMAN: Some of them are -- those who are 18 or older and who've worked a month. For example, there's Jane Cole. She's a strong-looking girl with smiling eyes. This fall she'll be a senior at Oberlin College.

She made up her mind before school was out that the farm was her field of war service, and as soon as she got news of Camp Mil-Bur, she hopped on her bicycle and pedaled the 25 miles from her home in the suburbs of Washington, D. C. Her nimble fingers fascinate you as she fills her basket with beans.

KADDERLY: You said I'd see some office girls too.

VAN DEMAN: Oh yes....for instance, there are three from the Bureau of Internal Revenue,--Pat Moran, Ann Winthrop, and Doris Graff. They're spending their vacation picking beans and getting a better tan than they used to get on the beach. Pat has learned how to save her back by sitting down and shuffling along. There seems to be a difference of opinion on the right stance for bean-picking. Some swear by the kneeling method; others prefer the deep back bend; and some just sit down and pick..

KADDERLY: The main idea is to get the beans picked.

VAN DEMAN: That's the idea these women proclaim -- and practice. Besides the college students, and office workers, the bean pickers include high school girls. One is Shirley Gallagher of Baltimore. You know her father. He works just a few doors down the hall from your office. Shirley picks beans like an old timer. Next to Shirley in the field is a Washington housewife, who says she'll have a lot more respect for a bean from now on. The tall woman who speaks to all of the girls, and is keeping the tokens given each picker for a full half-bushel basket... she's Miss Dorothea Ising, the camp nurse. She looks after the health of the women-- and picks beans, too. She's now quite an expert on sunburn, plain and fancy.

KADDERLY: I'll bet she is...But look, Ruth -- you haven't told me about Camp Mil-Bur. We haven't got past the field.

VAN DEMAN: Well, at the camp, you see four long dormitories where the girls live. At 5 in the afternoon they'll be knocking off and returning to camp for a cool dip in the lake-- and then dinner. By 10 o'clock all will be quiet, for 5 a.m. comes around all too quickly, and they must roll out for another day's work.... Maryland has a right to be proud of the Camp Mil-Bur bean pickers. They've made a monotonous task into a patriotic service worthy of their best effort.

KADDERLY: I certainly agree, Ruth. My hat's off to the women and girls who are saving the beans...and to the thousands of women and girls all over the country who are helping produce and harvest Food.

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